CLAIMS:

1. An offshore platform, comprising:

a buoyant hull having a substantially flat bottom, a plurality of flat sides defining a length and width for the hull that are substantially the same;

a top and a substantially flat bottom;

at least one aperture in the bottom and the top that vertically align with each other; and

a conduit extending between and sealed to the apertures for the passage of a riser.

2. The platform of claim 1, wherein the plurality of flat sides includes at least eight sides, each side having substantially the same dimensions as the others.

3. The platform of claim 1, further comprising a counterweight suspended below the hull.

4. An offshore platform, comprising: ✓

a buoyant hull having a substantially flat top, and substantially flat bottom, and a plurality of substantially flat sides, the bottom of the hull including a first aperture positioned substantially in a central portion of the bottom of the hull to thereby define a first tendon access shaft aperture, a plurality of smaller apertures positioned in a surrounding relationship to the first tendon access shaft aperture to thereby define a plurality of bottom riser slot apertures, the top of the hull including a second aperture positioned substantially in a center portion of the top of the hull to thereby define a second tendon access shaft aperture, and a corresponding plurality of smaller apertures positioned in a surrounding relationship to the second tendon access shaft aperture to thereby define a plurality of top riser slot apertures, the second tendon access shaft aperture positioned in a matching actual relationship with the first tendon access shaft, and the top riser slot apertures positioned in a matching axial relationship with the bottom riser slot apertures;

a conduit having an upper portion and a lower portion, and extending from below the bottom of the hull and through the first and second tendon access shaft apertures to thereby

define a tendon access shaft, the upper portion of the tendon access shaft cooperatively engaged with the hull to provide access to a tendon; and

a counterweight connected to the lower portion of the tendon access shaft and having a plurality of riser conductor slots to provide lateral stability to a plurality of risers.

5. The platform of claim 4, wherein the buoyant hull further includes a plurality of riser guide sleeves positioned between the top riser slot apertures and the bottom riser slot apertures.

6. The platform of claim 5, wherein the bottom of the hull is sealed about the riser guide sleeves and the first tendon access shaft to provide additional buoyancy to the buoyant hull.

7. The platform of claim 4, wherein the counterweight has a plurality of riser conductor slots connected to a plurality of risers to support a vertical load of the risers and provide additional vertical stability to the offshore platform and the risers.

8. The platform of claim 4, wherein the tendon access shaft further includes a tendon access shaft extension to extend the distance of the counterweight from the bottom of the hull to provide additional stability to the platform such that the platform floats vertically without the need of additional subsea support.

9. The platform of claim 8, wherein the tendon access shaft extension includes a tendon connector having a connection aperture for connecting a single tendon.

10. The platform of claim 8, wherein the tendon access shaft extension includes a tendon connector having a plurality of tendon connection apertures for connecting a plurality of tendons.

11. The platform of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of compartments connected below the buoyant hull to provide additional buoyancy and stability.

12. A method of constructing an offshore platform, comprising the steps of:

removing an intact midsection oil cargo tank from an existing tanker;

removing an inner portion of the removed oil cargo tank section, separating the oil cargo tank section into a plurality of separate sub-sections; and

rejoining the separate subsections to form a buoyant hull having a top, a bottom, and a plurality of flat sides, the hull having a width and length that are substantially the same.

13. A method of claim 12, further comprising the step of removing and rotating bulkheads forming sides of the hull such that bulkhead stiffeners are on the inside of said hull.

14. A method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

forming an aperture in the bottom and an aperture in the top aligned with the aperture in the bottom; and

securing a conduit sealingly between the apertures.

15. A method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of first riser slot apertures in a central section of the bottom of the new hull and forming a plurality of second riser slot apertures in the top of the new hull axially positioned in a matching relationship above the plurality of first riser slot apertures and installing a corresponding plurality of riser guide sleeves between the first and second riser slot apertures; and

forming a first tendon access shaft aperture in a central section of the bottom of the new hull and forming a second tendon access shaft aperture in the top of the new hull axially positioned in a matching relationship above the first tendon access shaft aperture and installing a tendon access shaft having a tendon access shaft extension between the first and second tendon access shaft apertures with the tendon access shaft extension extending below the bottom of the new hull.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of attaching a counterweight to a lower end of the tendon access shaft.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of removing corners of the hull and adding side panels at the corners to form an at least eight-sided hull.

18. A method of constructing an offshore platform, comprising the steps of:

forming a buoyant hull having a top, a bottom, and a plurality of flat sides; and

forming a plurality of first riser slot apertures in a central section of the bottom of the new hull and forming a plurality of second riser slot apertures in the top of the hull axially positioned in a matching relationship above the plurality of first riser slot apertures and installing

a corresponding plurality of riser guide sleeves sealingly between the first and second riser slot apertures.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of forming a first tendon access shaft aperture in a central section of the bottom of the hull and forming a second tendon access shaft aperture in the top of the hull axially positioned in a matching relationship above the first tendon access shaft aperture and installing a tendon access shaft having a tendon access shaft extension between the first and second tendon access shaft apertures with the tendon access shaft extension extending below the bottom of the hull.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of attaching a counterweight to a lower end of the tendon access shaft.